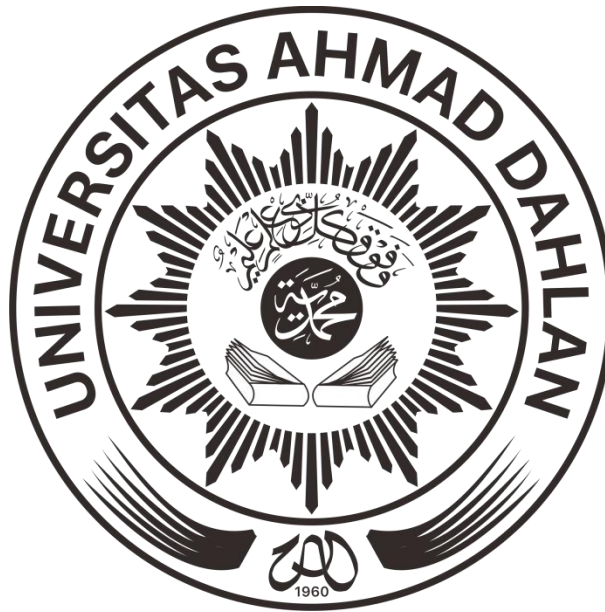


**TUPAC SHAKUR'S HIP HOP MUSIC AGAINST RACISM IN
AMERICAN SOCIETY AS REFLECTED IN THE FILM *ALL
EYEZ ON ME***

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ABSTRACT

The film *All Eyez On Me* tells the life of a Hip hop singer Tupac Shakur. This undergraduate paper shows how Tupac Shakur fought against racism in America society. It covered a story from his childhood to be a famous rapper along with his social movement called Black Panther. Hip hop is not only industrial music and entertainment, but also a critical media to society in America. This undergraduate paper has two main objective; (1) to describe the racism happened by Tupac Shakur (2) to investigate the correlation between Tupac Shakur Hip hop and American racism.

This research was under a descriptive qualitative method. Therefore, library research was used for compiling both primary data and secondary data. The primary data is adopted from the film, meanwhile the secondary data refer to some sources such as, books, journals, articles, and on-line data. Method of American studies as an interdisciplinary approach is also applied along with theories to analyze the problem formulation in this research. After the data are collected, they are analyzed by using a sociology approach, and focusing on racism theory by James M. Jones. He shows that racism was divided into three categories, individual racism, institutional racism, and cultural racism. Then, the writer uses the theory of popular culture because Tupac Shakur is a musician and music one of the product of popular culture.

This research result that Tupac Shakur tried fight against racism. Through his music 'Hip hop' and social movement of Black Panther. Even though it was not successful but it gave deep impacts toward the other social movements. In short, music can be used as a social critics through its lyrics.

Keywords: *Hip hop, racism, black people.*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Choosing Subject

Hip hop music was born because of the development of culture in America, it is characterized by the pronunciation of lyrics that are fast and with the main instruments are bass and snare. Emmett G price that said “by the end of the 1970s, hip-hop began to really evolve. One of the central catalysts behind this was the mega-success of the 1979 release of Sugar Hill Gang’s “Rapper delight” (Price 81). Finally, hip hop music has spread out nationally and internationally.

Hip Hop is a cultural movement, which has now become a pop culture, it is a subculture of American culture, which has a big influence on the social system order in America, even it has spread throughout the world. Hip-hop can be a double-edged sword, put in good or bad influences for social development in American society, and the world.

According to Didik Murwantono on his paper *The existence of American Rap Music and Indonesian Hip Hop as Popular Culture: A Riview of American Studies* he state that, America is well known throughout the world, mainly its popular culture. Therefore, culture becomes a reference for other countries, even Indonesia. Mass produce culture consisted of all elements of life which are generally, but not necessary, and disseminated by the mass media. Thus popular culture consists of cultural

elements generally transmitted by the printed press, the electronic media, or by other form of mass communication (Murwantono 22).

B. Scope of the Study

To avoid the distracted discussion, the study is going to be limited into certain topic, *All Eyez On Me* film. The writer will focus on the main character of the film which is name Tupac Shakur, and the influence of the hip hop culture to the main character. The topic of this under graduated thesis deals with hip hop music as resistance against racism in America is reflected through the film *All Eyez On Me*.

C. Problem Formulation

1. What are the kinds of racism that happened around the life of Tupac Shakur in the film *All Eyez on Me*?
2. How are Tupac Shakur “hip hop music” dealing with fighting against American racism as reflected in the film *All Eyez On Me*?

D. Objectives of the Study

1. To find the racism that happened around the life of Tupac Shakur as seen in the film *All Eyez On Me*.
2. To analyze Tupac Shakur Hip hop music correlated with American racism as seen in the film *All Eyez On Me*.

E. Review on Related Studies

First, Javanese Hip Hop as a Form of Group Identity Jogja Hip-Hop Foundation, by Lisnia Yulia Rakhmawati (2011), Social Sciences student of Universitas Negri Yogyakarta. In his study, Lisnia discussed the difference between Hip Hop in America with hip hop in Indonesia, especially Yogyakarta.

Second, research on hip hop is done by Sertina Mewati Warawuru with the research title is *Effect of Hip Hop Culture on the Lifestyle of the Hip Hop Community*. The study discussed the influence of Hip Hop culture on Medan's local community that was established in the Hip Hop community (Warawuru 09).

Third, hip-hop thesis by David Librado (2010) with title *An Instrument Of Resistance: Rap Music and Hip-Hop Culture in El Alto, Bolivia*. He discuss about Rap and hip-hop culture become a tool of resistance, a tool used to reflect and respond to reality, against racism, misrepresentation, and exclusion by the hip-hop artist of El Alto, Bolivia (Librado, 13).

Forth, hip hop paper by Didik Murwantono entitled *The Existance of American Rap Music and Indonesian Hip-hop as Popular Culture: A Review of American Studies*. Murwantono discuss on his article focuses on popular music with the phenomena in Hip hop culture which is included Rap music (murwantono 22).

F. Theoretical Approach

Here the writer take two main theories to analyze Tupac Shakur's hip hop music against racism in America as reflected in the film *All Eyez On Me*, they are theory of racism and popular culture.

G. Method of Research

For this research, the writer collects and gets data from some resource; such as books, internet, youtube interview, song lyric, journal, copied material, other graduating papers, and discussion which related to the topic of research. In this research, the writer uses the descriptive technique and qualitative data.

There are some steps in the whole process of doing this research as follows:

1. The source of data

In this research, writers divides source data into two kinds. Those two kinds of data will be separately explained as follows:

a. Main Data

The main data of this research is film as an object research. Film that is used in this research is film *All Eyez On Me*.

b. Supporting Data

The supporting data that support the main data are taken from song lyric of Tupac Shakur who is the main character of the film *All Eyez On Me* film,

journal, video interview, internet source, books, copied material or articles, magazine, and also from thesis that have similarity with the topic of research.

2. Technique of collecting data

In the technique of collecting data, the writer went to library of Ahmad Dahlan University, also writer used internet to collecting data for this research.

3. Technique of analysis data

Qualitative research is used to analyze the data. One of the qualitative researches is descriptive. Qualitative research as a site of multiple methodologies and research is an interdisciplinary, trans-interdisciplinary, and sometimes countered-interdisciplinary field. It crosscut the humanities and the social and physical science. Qualitative is many things at the same time. It's multi paradigmatic in focus (Muhni, 2003: 29).

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. History of Hip hop Music

Hip hop is a culture that emerged from the inner city of New York. From a local phenomenon addressing the needs and desires of poor inner-city youth, Hip Hop has become an international, multibillion-dollar institution that has virtually changed the nature of the music and entertainment industries (Price 01). Hip op Culture is most

commonly defined as the combination of four foundational elements: DJing, graffiti, b-boying/b-girling, and MCing. Each element serves as a method of self-expression relying on individual creativity and highly personalized modes of performance (Price 21).

The writer will explain what MC / Rap is, because Tupac Shakur is a rapper who is a writer studied in this paper. Davey D explains what rap is in the book *Hip-Hop Perlawanan Dari Ghetto*, rap is a form of expression that finds its roots in ancient African culture and oral tradition. Throughout history in America there have always been some forms of verbal acrobatic rapids in the Afro-American community (Adhe 23). Hip hop is cultural expression that emerged out of context of poverty, marginalization, racism, and alienation. For the youth living in the inner city of New York, hip hop became “a creative means to try to escape poverty and oppression while commenting on it” (Librado, 13).

Emmet G. Price III on the book *Hip-Hop Culture* (2006) argues that the vulnerable period of 1960-1970 was a time of mourning for the black American community. Compelled by a lack of access to justice, health care, voting rights, employment, and other everyday privileges of citizenship, numerous groups of minorities took to the streets in strategic offense against the racist and highly discriminatory practices of the country. Using protests, marches, boycotts, sit-ins, and other nonviolent means, the civil rights movement accomplished numerous feats, such as passage of the Civil Rights Act to stop racial discrimination (1964) and the Voting

Rights Act (1965). Led by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. But Dr. Martin Luther King Died on April 4, 1968.

B. American Racism

C.1. Definition of racism

The writers once attended a lecture from Pak Hakim, which is lecturer in UAD with major of American Studies. Where Pak Hakim tells about American history. America is one of the white colonization processes, because Native Americans are; which by most people is called as an Indian tribe, have red skinned. The expansion of Europe that brought thousands of slaves from Africa to America to help open new land to farm and settle down. The slave was told to work endlessly and was treated like an animal. From the slavery system, there was a power relation between the employer and the slave. Racism has commonly accompanied slavery, colonialism, and other forms of exploitation and gross inequality (Hemingway, 37). And from the migration of people from eastern countries including Asia, which adds to skin color or race in the United States.

The writer cite from Hafizh who is quotes from Oommen (1997), Oommen classifying human races in three major groups, namely the Mongoloid race or the yellow skin race, the Negroid race or the black race, and the Caucasian or white race (Hafizh, 178). Negroid and Black is often regarded as the minority or lower class in American citizen. On the average, American Negroes as minority are social inferior to white. In term a status, income, education, and occupation, but their social inferiority

can more plausibly be explained as the result of racial attitudes held by the white majority than the Negroes biological inferiority (Green 324).

According to James M Jones There are three types of racism as explained in his book *Prejudice and Racism* (1997):

C.1.1 Individual Racism

Individual racism is closest to race prejudice and suggests a belief in the superiority of one's own race over another and in the behavioral enactments that maintain those superior and inferior positions.

C.1.2 Institutional Racism

Institutional racism refers to "those established laws, customs, and practices which systematically reflect and produce racial inequalities in American society". This practice or policies systematically create disadvantage for racial minority groups and their members.

C.1.3. Cultural Racism

Cultural racism contains elements of both individual and institutional racism. Cultural racism can generally be defined as the individual and institutional expression of the superiority of one race's cultural heritage over that of another race.

C.2. Racism and Discrimination

In the present days in America, racism is still happening, even though there are constitutional laws and the civil rights movement that controls racism in America.

C.2.1. Verbal Discrimination

Based on article *Linguistic Discrimination in an English Language Teaching Program: Voices of the Invisible Others* “the term linguistic discrimination is defined as ideologies and practices which are used to legitimate, regulate and reproduce an unequal division of power and resources defined on the basis of language” (136). And according to journal by D.C. Hauptfleisch, Racist language has occurred and still occurs in probably every society. Usually it originates from antagonistic interracial contact situations. As a result of disagreeable personal experiences in such situations, judgements and prejudices are formed and given expression through disparaging utterances which readily become stereotypes.

C.2.2. Physical Discrimination

According to its most simple definition, racial discrimination refers to unequal treatment of persons or groups on the basis of their race or ethnicity. Discrimination may be motivated by prejudice, stereotypes, or racism, but the definition of discrimination does not presume any unique underlying cause (Pager & Shepherd 182).

Pager dan Sheperd quote from Schuman “Numerous surveys have asked African Americans and other racial minorities about their experiences with discrimination in the workplace, in their search for housing, and in other everyday social settings” (Pager & Shepherd 182).

C. Popular Culture

According to Djuhertati Imam Muhni (2003), culture divided into 3 definitions, that are, high culture, folk culture and popular culture. High culture is a cultural work that is archived by writing (script). The characteristic of high culture are written, creative with both conceptual and theory as well as talent, individual work, creative for an ideal, acquisition of money is not the main goal, recorded in the form of high literature, fine art, classical music. Folk culture categorized based on the creative culture of the community which is spread through oral culture and carried out continuously in a community, likes legends and tales. And the last is popular culture. Popular culture is creative work of art whether painting, music, film produce to entertain. The characteristic of popular culture are written or transmitted by print, broadcasting or other commercial, not serious concept of idealism, individual word mass produced to give pleasure, financial gain and popularity become the goals, patented and popular literature, popular songs, popular art (Muhni 36).

CHAPTER III

DISCUSSION

A. Racism That Happened Around the Life of Tupac Shakur As Seen In the Film *All Eyez On Me*.

A.1 Individual Racism

This is illustrated in the story of film *All Eyez On Me* when Tupac Shakur was crossing the road and accidentally, there was a police patrol car passing by, the

policeman is white, then the police rang the siren as a signal to Tupac to stop. The judgement of black people in America are often considered bad, criminal.

In the scene, Tupac was arrested by police on the accusation of jaywalking. Even though in the film scene the traffic conditions are slow, and no zebra crossing is visible in the scene, should, Tupac does not break the law. Because black stereotypes in America are already bad, so anyone black who walks at night is suspected of being a criminal, or will commit a criminal act.

A.2 Institutional Racism

Tupac family is Black Panther activists, which is the Black Panther considered by the American government as a threat to the State, because they loudly voiced social issues, especially racism. When Tupac became a rapper, Tupac experienced a rape charge case, with a Tupac friend who is also black, However, only Tupac entered the court. Also, former vice president George bush, once banned the Tupac album to be played in America.

Government institutions do not run according to legal procedures, the government only wants to silence black people which talks about social injustice in society. Institutional injustice was also illustrated when Tupac was sentenced to prison with maximum security facilities, which is a maximum security facility intended for high-class criminals, like mass murder or terrorist.

A.3 Cultural Racism

Simply defined, cultural racism is prejudice and discrimination based on culture. Like, white culture is the most superior than other ethnic cultures. Like, white culture is the most superior than other ethnic cultures.

Cultural racism in the film *All Eyez On Me* can be seen when the opening film features Tupac Shakur's speech about the struggle of American blacks against white discrimination, sympathy feeling for the victims of black activists who were killed while giving up their rights in society in America. Henry Giroux an American and Canadian scholar and cultural critique said that cultural racism was also proven in political rights in America.

B. Tupac Shakur Hip hop Music Correlated With American Racism As Seen In the Film *All Eyez On Me*.

B.1. Hip hop Music of Racism

The discrimination experienced by black people is not only in the form of verbal discrimination but also physical discrimination.

B.1.1. Physical Discrimination

The form of physical discrimination that Tupac described in his song is when Tupac Shakur will be join on the Interscope record label, Tupac was interviewed by the Interscope manager, and the label record manager dislike to one of the Tupac songs that would be recorded on the Interscope label, that song is “Brenda’s Got a Baby”. According to Tupac, that song (hip hop music) does not only focus on

fun/entertainment, but to the interscope manager, from a business perspective, people just need entertainment.

Tupac argue, that white Americans do not care about what happens to "Hood" (Hood is a person who lives or is from the "Ghetto" area, Ghetto itself is a name for slums in America which majority inhabited by blacks and minority races.) So that white Americans often ignore the social problems that occur by Blacks.

B.1.2. Verbal Discrimination

Tupac's hip hop music has also received protests from the coalition of black Americans in Washington D.C, they assume that the lyrics of the Tupac song are seen as exploiting women by using words “Bitch” and assuming that the lyrics from the genre “gangsta rap” hate women and pervert. Tupac admitted that he used words like “Bitch, Whore”.

Then Tupac clarification the meaning of the Tupac lyrics who use words that are considered to discriminate against women. Although many words can be considered as verbal discrimination like the words “Bitch” “Whore” in most hip hop lyrics, but, for Tupac it is not intended to harass or insulting women. That is a form of expression to express that woman called “Bitch” is a strong and independent woman.

B.2 Hip hop as Blacks Protest For Racism

Tupac Hip Hop album was banned from circulating in America by American vice president Dan Quayle, on the grounds that Tupac's album 2pacalypse Now give bad influence on American society. Quayle blamed the Tupac album which influenced a young man in Texas to shoot dead a police officer. At that time, Tupac from the Black

Panther family had become a famous rapper, and has thousands of fans all over the world.

The discrimination of Tupac songs by the American government, according to Tupac it is inappropriate, because according to Tupac the police killed more black people than black civilians killing a policeman. If the government forbids Tupac from talking about street truths, then the government must also prohibit the police from using excessive force while on duty.

Quayle's accusation blamed Tupac for the death of a policeman who was on duty is based on hatred towards Tupac and its movements against racism and social issues that exist in America. As Tupac's mother, Afeni, said that the government will give a tool to silence Tupac so that it no longer talks "negatively" about America. Tupac is being targeted by the American government to be silenced like his stepfather and mother. The war between Tupac and the government falls into the category of institutional racial discrimination between blacks and American governments.

C. Film as Popular Culture

America always dominates in film production, whether it's action films, fiction, drama, horror, and biographies. Supported by sophisticated modern equipment. American film products are always win in visual terms. Also an actor or actress and all

crew members with qualified talent, many American films have become box office and viral throughout the world.

Films can be used as propaganda political media or can be aimed to purpose such as education about art, sports, food. It can also add cultural insight to the audience, like how the lives of black Americans, the life of the Italian people in America and so on. American culture has various forms depending on geographical scale. Where the community lives.

The film *All Eyez On Me* is one of the pop culture because it is popularity of this film and the story raised in the film is a biography of hip hop singer Tupac Shakur, it already meets the requirements as pop culture. The genre of this film is biography, tell the outline of Tupac's life. He was born in the Black panther party family, who from childhood have learned how to live as a black person which is dominated by whites. Cause Tupac's awareness that work is not only for self-satisfaction, it also has to satisfy those who hear it, that is, by providing true street information, starting from racism, police brutality, dark life of black people, and other social problems.

Film *All Eyez On Me* one box office movie, gross profit of \$ 48.8 million in the United States and Canada, and \$10.7 million in other territories. Against a production budget of \$40 million. *All Eyez On Me* released in North America on June 16, 2017.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Racism is a serious problem that exists in America and even the world which is already widespread in society, consciously or unconsciously racism still exists today, because of lack of knowledge or because racism was deliberately formed. The film *All Eyez On Me* tells the life of Tupac Shakur against racism in America through his Hip Hop music. Hip hop became a tool to describe racism experienced personally by Tupac or commonly experienced by other black people.

The relationship between hip hop and resistance to racism stems from the long history of black people in America. They were forcibly taken to America from Africa to be slaves to cotton plantations. Racism is the understanding that a race feels or believes to be superior to other races. The race that felt superior is the American white race rooted in the Anglo-Saxon tribe in Europe. They feel themselves superior and colonize other societies outside their race, and one of the colonized races was the black race in America.

Black communities in America occupy slum districts and vulnerable to crime. However, that's where hip hop was born, the slum is the Bronx, one of the cities in New York. Hip hop was originally born when a black Jamaican named Kool Dj Herc came from Kingston Jamaica to the Bronx, at that time, New York is being hit by a disco music uproar, which, disco music shows are only held in elite cafes or bars so that poor

black people are unable to enjoy the disco music because they do not have access to enter the bar or cafe.

Indeed music is entertainment media, anyone who listens to music will be entertained. But music can also be a tool of resistance, as Tupac Shakur did, he speaks and preaches the truth through his music.